

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) In a system for decoding packetized program information including ancillary program specific information comprising a plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables, said ancillary information being for use in acquiring and decoding packetized program information to provide a video program for display, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a mismatch between a version number of a first table of said program specific information and a corresponding version number of said first table conveyed in a second table;

ensuring compatibility of said first table version number conveyed in said first and second tables in response to said detected mismatch using a forced compatible version number, wherein using said compatible version number is forced before acquiring new information corresponding to at least one of: said first table and said second table; and

decoding packetized program information using program specific information including said first and second tables, at least one of said first and second tables including said forced compatible version number, to provide a video program for display,

wherein said step of ensuring compatibility of said first table version number conveyed in said first and second tables includes at least one of the steps of,

substituting a version number for said first table version number by substituting in said first table said first table number conveyed in said second table, to ensure compatibility;

substituting said version number for said first table tale version by substituting in said second table said first table number conveyed in said first table, to ensure compatibility; and

reverting to a previous version of at least one of (a) said first table, and (b) said second table, to ensure version number compatibility.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein
said first table comprises a channel map associating a transmission channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting a program conveyed on a broadcast channel, and
said second table contains information for acquiring program specific information conveyed in other tables including identifiers for identifying data packets comprising said first table.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, including the step of
examining said program specific information for error indications by examining at least one of, (a) an MPEG transport error indicator, (b) an MPEG discontinuity indicator, (c) an MPEG continuity counter, and
decoding said packetized program information in response to said examination determination of an error free condition.

4. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein
said second table conveys a plurality of version numbers corresponding to version numbers conveyed in said plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables, and said detecting step includes the step of,
comparing individual version numbers of said plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables against corresponding individual version numbers conveyed in said second table.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said substituting step comprises overwriting said first table version number conveyed in at least one of (a) said first table, and (b) said second table, to ensure compatibility.

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of ensuring compatibility of said first table version number conveyed in said first and second tables includes the step of, acquiring at least one of (a) a new version of said first table, and (b) a new version of said second table, to ensure version number compatibility after said forcing operation is performed.

9. (previously presented) In a system for decoding packetized program information including ancillary program specific information comprising a plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables, said ancillary information being for use in acquiring and decoding packetized program information to provide a video program for display, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a mismatch between a version number of a first table of said program specific information and a corresponding version number of said first table conveyed in a second table;

decoding packetized program information by,

disregarding said first table version number conveyed in said first and second tables in response to said detected mismatch and by

applying program specific information including information in said first table;

examining said program specific information for an error condition in addition to said detected mismatch; and

decoding said packetized program information in response to the absence of an error condition when the mismatch is the only detected error condition.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 9 40, wherein said error condition is indicated by at least one of, (a) an MPEG transport error indicator, (b) an MPEG discontinuity indicator, Cc) an MPEG continuity counter.

12. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said second table conveys a plurality of version numbers corresponding to version numbers conveyed in said plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables, and said detecting step includes the step of,

comparing individual version numbers of said plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables against corresponding individual version numbers conveyed in said second table.

Claims 13-18 (cancelled)

19. (original) In a system for decoding packetized program information including ancillary program specific information comprising a plurality of hierarchically ordered information tables, said ancillary information being for use in acquiring and decoding packetized program information to provide a video program for display, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a fault condition in program specific information comprising at

least one of, (a) a version number incompatibility between a version number of a first table and a corresponding version number of said first table conveyed in a second table, and (b) a PSI error condition;

indicating in a database said transmission channel is associated with said detected fault condition; and

removing a channel associated with said fault condition from a User's viewable active channel line-up list.

20. (original) A method according to claim 19, wherein
said PSI error condition comprises at least one of, (a) an MPEG transport error, (b) an MPEG discontinuity error, (c) an MPEG continuity count error, and (d) an error indicated by a variance between successive time stamps.

21. (original) A method according to claim 19, including the step of
indicating a channel as being associated with a fault condition in a User's viewable channel line-up list.